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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATIONS AND REPORTS OF SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS AND REPRESENTATIVES

Letter dated 2 June 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on Myanmar/Burma issued on 30 May 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 114 (c) of the preliminary list.

(Signed) N. H. BIEGMAN
Permanent Representative of the
Netherlands to the United Nations

* A/52/50.

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ANNEX

[Original: English and French]

Statement on Myanmar issued on 30 May 1997
by the Presidency of the European Union

The European Union is gravely concerned at the continuing deterioration of the political situation in Myanmar/Burma, in particular the increasing repression of the population, and the arrests and detention of members of the National League for Democracy (NLD), related to the celebration on 27 May last of the anniversary of the 1990 elections. These actions constitute a further flagrant breach of fundamental freedoms and human rights. The European Union is of the view that it is the legitimate right of any legal political party to assemble peacefully and to discuss matters of common interest.

The European Union urges the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) to immediately and unconditionally release those NLD members who are still detained, as well as all other political prisoners.

In this respect, the European Union recalls its common position as well as its earlier statements on Myanmar/Burma and calls upon SLORC to enter into a meaningful and substantive dialogue with Aung San Suu Kyi and other representatives of pro-democracy groups, as well as with national minorities to restore democracy, the rule of law, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to bring about national reconciliation.